

# NC HEAD START Newsletter

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# North Carolina HEAD START Newsletter



A joint publication of the NC Head Start Association and the NC Head Start — State Collaboration Office.

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### Greetings from the NCHSA President



Lacy Bell, Jr.  
NCHSA President

Welcome to the first edition of the *North Carolina HEAD START Newsletter*, a joint publication of the NC Head Start State Collaboration Office and the NC Head Start Association.

The *North Carolina HEAD START Newsletter* will continue to include information from the NCHSA President and the NC Head Start State Collaboration Office as well as Cluster updates, professional development information and recent program accomplishments highlighting successes in NC Head Start programs.

The North Carolina Head Start Association (NCHSA) is a non-profit organization which serves as a formal body to address concerns and issues that impact the quality of Head Start. NCHSA was organized in early 1970 and was incorporated in 1987. This membership organization of parents, staff, directors, and friends represents over 17,000 children and their families and over 2000 employed staff in 53 Head Start programs across the state.

President Lyndon B. Johnson initiated Project Head Start on May 18, 1965 as one of the "War on Poverty" programs. Headquartered in Washington, DC. and housed in the Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start is a federally funded, comprehensive preschool program designed to meet emotional, social, health, dental, nutritional and educational needs of 3- and 4-year-olds and their families through a comprehensive family-focused approach. The Early Head Start program began in 1995 to serve families with children from birth to age three and pregnant mothers.

Join us March 17-20 for our pre-conference and annual training conference events as we present our 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference at the Twin City Quarter in Winston-Salem, NC. Pre-conference events include the one-day Men are Nurturer's Too *Keeping the Vision* event on March 17, and the Asthma Basics for Children (ABC) train-the-trainers event on March 18. We are also honored to present, in collaboration with the NC HSSCO, *A Conversation About Expanding Infant-Toddler Services in North Carolina* at the opening session on March 18 as well as an oral health initiatives plenary session on March 19.

As we begin a new year, we have many challenges before us. Let's work together to overcome obstacles and strengthen our services to children and families in NC together.

As I reach my tenure as president, I want to thank all of our programs for the outstanding support you given me during my four year tenure as president of the North Carolina Head Start Association. Your support and creativity is the very fiber which all programs in North Carolina are cut from. My charge to each program in our state is to stay focused, continued to work together constructively, increase the intensity here in your state to remain the leaders in the field of Early Childhood Education.

A special thanks to all officers, committees, and everyone who assisted me in moving your Association to another level.

Sincerely,

Lacy Bell, Jr., NCHSA President

### Greetings from the NC HSSCO Director

The NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office is pleased to partner with the NC Head Start Association on the development of the *North Carolina HEAD START Newsletter*. Our commitment is to share timely information about Head Start and other early care and education matters with the Head Start community and our partners across the State. You can expect to find details about new initiatives, relevant policy issues, professional development and training opportunities, and much more! It is our sincerest hope that this publication will become your valued resource for important news about Head Start and the North Carolina early childhood system.

The NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) was created in 1992 to facilitate the involvement of Head Start in the development of State policies, plans, processes, and decisions affecting the Head Start target population and other low-income families. The HSSCO pursues eight (8) federal priorities that include the coordination of Head Start services with child care and State Pre-K, welfare services, health care, education, community service activities, family literacy services, activities related to special needs children, and services for homeless children.

As Head Start crosses the one-year benchmark of its historical reauthorization in 2007, grantees in North Carolina are actively implementing new legislative requirements that will have a profound impact on service delivery. Memorandums of Understanding have been developed between Head Start programs and State-funded pre-K (More at Four) that will lead to deeper levels of collaboration and coordination and improved services to children and families. New priority given to serving homeless children in Head Start reaffirms the program's commitment to serve those of greatest need. New professional development requirements of Head Start staff will help ensure that the highest quality of comprehensive services is being offered to the 21,000 young children and their families in all 100 counties in North Carolina.

To you, the fabric of North Carolina's early care and education system, the HSSCO bids you Godspeed as you carry forward and abroad your unswerving commitment to young children and families.

In the spirit of collaboration,

Khari M. Garvin, M.Ed  
Director, NC HSSCO

### Current Head Start Collaboration Office Initiatives

#### *Open to all current HS & EHS Employees*

The HSSCO unveiled the **NC Head Start Collaboration Special Projects Internship Program** in mid-October. Beginning June 2009, up to three (3) HS Collaboration Office Interns will be selected via a competitive process to participate in an intensive 5-week experience in Raleigh, NC. Interns will help advance the priorities of the HSSCO by attending State-level meetings, conducting research, and crafting position papers and summary briefs. Stipends for Interns range from \$3250 – \$5500 for the 5-week period. Interested candidates were required to submit application packets to the HSSCO by or before January 10, 2009. The first class of NC Head Start Collaboration Special Projects Interns will be announced at the NCHSA Annual Training Conference in March 2009, in Winston-Salem.

#### *For HS & EHS Teaching Staff*

North Carolina is the first in the nation to increase its workforce professional development standards by *certifying* the education of those who work directly with children age birth to 12. This important initiative, known as *Early Educator Certification*, is the new system that validates and recognizes the professional development achievements of early childhood professionals. Teachers in all early care settings (Head Start, More at Four, private providers, etc.) are eligible to participate. Candidates can have their transcripts reviewed to verify their level of education, and then be assigned a corresponding certification level by the *NC Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development*. Certification is based on a standardized scale with ten levels ranging from para-professional to doctorate degree. Certified teaching staff will receive an official certificate and a wallet-sized certification card. As with all professions, certified individuals will have to continue their education to maintain their certification.

There are over 500 teaching staff from approximately 25 Head Start programs across the State who have already received Early Educator Certification. In an effort to generate interest among Head Start teachers in all NC Head Start programs, the HSSCO is pleased to sponsor Early Educator Certifications for a very limited number of teaching staff from the following NC Head Start & EHS grantees:

Alexander County HS	Kannapolis Board of Ed. HS
Asheville City Schools HS	Lumbee Regional Dev. HS
Bethlehem Center HS	McDowell Co. Board of Ed. HS
Blue Ridge CA HS	Mountain Area Child & Family HS





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www.osr.nc.gov/HeadStart

Cabarrus Co. Board of Ed. HS    Onslow Co. Board of Ed. HS  
Cleveland Co. Board of Ed. HS    Orange Co. Board of Ed. HS  
Family & Infant Preschool HS    Person Co. Board of Ed. HS  
Family Services HS    Polk Co. Board of Ed. HS  
Greene Lamp HS    Rutherford Co. Board of Ed. HS

For more information about how to participate in the Early Educator Certification initiative, contact the Certification Department at [info@nceec.org](mailto:info@nceec.org) or 919.942.7442.

## For all HS & EHS Program Directors

The Head Start Collaboration Office is releasing a Request for Application (RFA) this month to NC Head Start grantees announcing 2009 "mini-grant" opportunities. The goal of the mini-grants is to help stimulate partnerships between Head Start and local or State entities to strengthen families and reduce the impact of high-risk behaviors that affect healthy development. Up to four (4) mini-grants will be awarded in February 2009, ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. For more information, or to apply, please contact the HSSCO.

## Coordinating Head Start Services with Health Services

The NC HSSCO has partnered with the Food, Bio-processing, & Nutrition Sciences Department of NC State University to pilot the *Nutrition Understanding Through Service* (NUTS) childhood obesity prevention project. Chapel Hill Training & Outreach (Orange), Operation Breakthrough (Durham), and Telamon Corp. (Wake) Head Start programs will be the pilot sites for the project. Dr. Suzie Goodell (NC State) will lead the pilot project that will include a three-pronged approach to combating childhood obesity focusing on: a) children – literacy component with college students making regular visits to Head Start classrooms to read stories that have nutrition themes b) parents – training opportunities offered at Head Start parent centers on understanding food nutrition labels and making healthy food choices c) staff – teacher training on integrating nutrition education into lesson-planning. The HSSCO provided the funding to help launch the NUTS childhood obesity prevention project.

## Recent Program Accomplishments

*Tooting our own horns!*

### Donna Barnette named Assistant Head Start Director

Cumberland Community Action Program, Inc. (CCAP) announces the promotion of Donna Barnette to the position of Assistant Head Start Director. Barnette, a native of Fayetteville, has been in Head Start management for 4 years in the child services department. She holds a BA degree in sociology from Methodist College, and a Certificate of Nonprofit Management from Duke University. She was previously employed with the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County and worked for eight years in the Cumberland County Schools exceptional children's preschool program.



CCAP Inc. is a non-profit provider of community services offering programs that encourage overall life-style growth. The programs include: Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS); Head Start; Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina (SHFB SE NC); Community Service Block Grant Programs; Energy Efficiency; and Housing.



## CLUSTER NEWS

### Cluster A hosts successful Day of Training during December 2008

Cluster A, headed by Ms. Regina Harrell, hosted a successful day of training on December 2 at the Global Transpark Learning Center in Kinston, NC. Participants



could choose between four training sessions: Family Partnership Agreements, Transitions; EPSDT; and Keep the Candle Burning. Breakfast and lunch were provided. A short business meeting was held after lunch. Participants received

participation certificates and a chance at one of many fun door prizes before heading back to their programs! Cluster A officers are busy planning their spring 2009 training event, tentatively scheduled for April 21, 2009.

### Child Care Health Advocate Training Update

The Child Care Health Advocate Training, sponsored by NC Central University and the NC Head Start State Collaboration Office, is nearly complete, with the final face-to-face meetings scheduled for February 2009 as follows:

Cluster A: February 18  
Cluster B: February 18  
Cluster C: February 24  
Cluster E: February 25

Health Managers who have completed the program will graduate at the NCHSA 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference awards banquet, March 19, 2009, at the Twin City Quarter in Winston-Salem.

## Early Childhood Training Opportunities

### Creative Curriculum training now available through CCRI

Charlotte-based Child Care Resources Inc. (CCRI), a private, nonprofit child care resource and referral agency, has recently become endorsed as a Teaching Strategies, Inc. (TSI) training affiliate organization (the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation), enabling it to deliver introductory, in-depth and extensive training on effective implementation of *The Creative Curriculum*, published by TSI. Training is currently available on the following topics:

The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos;  
The Creative Curriculum for Preschool;  
Observing, Individualizing and Planning for Children Using The Developmental Continuum; *Literacy: The Creative Curriculum Approach*, and  
The Creative Curriculum Approach to Planning: Incorporating "Studies" in the Classroom.

Customized on-site training on any of these topics is now available across the state. For more information, please contact CCRI's TSI-certified trainer Grace Horsman at 704-376-6697, ext. 186 or [ghorsman@childcareresourcesinc.org](mailto:ghorsman@childcareresourcesinc.org).

### Free Infant-Toddler Foundation training available until June

Infant-Toddler Foundations training is available now through June 2009 and is **FREE** to providers of infant-toddler services. The training addresses the five domains of learning and connects development and learning to the Early Learning Standards. The following Early Head Start programs are training hubs for this initiative: **Mountain Area Child & Family Center** (Buncombe); **Salisbury-Rowan Community Services Council, Inc.** (Rowan); **Cumberland Community Action Program, Inc.** (Cumberland); **Guilford Child Development** (Guilford); **WAGES, Inc.** (Wayne).

### Cultural Competency Training begins this month

"Cultural Competency Training" will be offered for Head Start staff and a separate session for administrators beginning January 2009. The training will be provided by the *Center for New North Carolinians*, a division of UNC Greensboro. **Please contact the NC HSSCO to register.**

### "WHEN CHILDREN DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY WILL SLEEP AT NIGHT: Meeting the Needs of Children Who Are Highly-Mobile"

Head Start programs are now required to identify and prioritize homeless children for enrollment. This one-day training is provided by *Partnerships for Inclusion* and is designed to help prepare teachers to understand and address the social-emotional needs of young homeless children. The training is **FREE** to all Education Managers in Head Start/EHS programs and will be delivered in a "train-the-trainer" format.

One session will be convened in Wake County and the other in Guilford County during the last week in February. **Contact the NC HSSCO to register.**

### RIVHSA Annual Training Conference

The Region IV Head Start 2009 Annual Training Conference, *Many Voices. One Spirit*, will be held February 2-5, 2009 at the Atlanta Hilton and Towers, Atlanta, Georgia. Visit [www.rivhsa.org](http://www.rivhsa.org) for details.

### NCHSA 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference

Mark your calendars and make your reservations for our 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference, *Head Start: Reauthorized, Renewed and Remaining the BEST!* This year's conference will be held at the Twin City Quarter in Winston-Salem, NC. Pre-conference events will take place March 17-18, with the full conference kicking off at 2 pm on March 18. Information is posted online at [www.ncheadstart.org](http://www.ncheadstart.org). Workshops will again qualify for Contact Hour Credits for NC Child Care licensing ongoing staff professional development requirements.

### NHSA 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference

The National Head Start Association's (NHSA) 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference, *Beyond the Boundaries: New Approaches and New Strategies*, will be held April 27-May 2, 2009 in Orlando, Florida. For details visit [www.nhsa.org](http://www.nhsa.org).

### Smart Start 2009 National Conference

The North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCP) 2009 National Conference will be held May 5-8, 2009 at the Greensboro Sheraton Koury Convention Center. For details, visit [www.smartstart-nc.org](http://www.smartstart-nc.org).

### NCCAA 2009 Annual Conference

The North Carolina Community Action Association's Annual Conference will be held May 18-22, 2009 at the Downtown Raleigh Marriott on Fayetteville Street. The conference theme is *Change: New Leadership, New Opportunities*. Pre-conference activities will be held May 18-19. The conference will be held May 20-22. For details visit [www.nccaa.net](http://www.nccaa.net).